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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/037,273	01/04/2002	Roy W. Bowen	P00588-US-0 (15859.0005)	6830

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Brian T. Ster  
ICE MILLIER  
One American Square  
Box 82001  
Indianapolis, IN 46282-0002

EXAMINER

TSIDULKO, MARK

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2875

DATE MAILED: 08/08/2003

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

**Office Action Summary**

Application No.

10/037,273

Applicant(s)

BOWEN, ROY W.

Examiner

Mark Tsidulko

Art Unit

2875

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --  
Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

**Status**

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 04 January 2002.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**.                      2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

**Disposition of Claims**

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1 and 3-12 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

**Application Papers**

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 04 January 2002 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
- Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
- 11) ☐ The proposed drawing correction filed on \_\_\_\_\_ is: a) ☐ approved b) ☐ disapproved by the Examiner.
- If approved, corrected drawings are required in reply to this Office action.
- 12) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner.

**Priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 119 and 120**

- 13) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
  2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_\_.
  3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- \* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.
- 14) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(e) (to a provisional application).
- a) ☐ The translation of the foreign language provisional application has been received.
- 15) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for domestic priority under 35 U.S.C. §§ 120 and/or 121.

**Attachment(s)**

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)                  | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) Paper No(s). _____  |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)         | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449) Paper No(s) _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____                                    |

### DETAILED ACTION

The submission of amendment filed on 6/2/03 is acknowledged. At this point claim 1 has been amended, claim 2 has been canceled, claims 9-12 have been added and the remaining claims left unchanged. Thus, claims 1, 3-12 are at issue in the instant application.

#### *Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103*

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

Claims 1, 3, 4, 5, 8-12 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Goto (US 2001/0001596) in view of Ohishi (US 4,841,419).

Referring to Claims 1, 8, 9, 12 Goto discloses (Fig.2) a vehicle lamp having:

- a molded (page 1, [0013]) component [10] including a base portion [12] having an opening, a lens portion [13] rigidly, integrally molded completely over the opening in the base portion and a light source holder [21] integrally molded to the base portion and adapted to hold the electrical connector so that when the light source is held by the connector, the light source extends into the hollow portion of the lens portion;

Art Unit: 2875

- an electrical connector [32] adapted to provide electrical connection to the light source;
- means [14, 15] for retaining the base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle body.

Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for hollow tube.

Ohishi discloses (Fig.1) a light source holder in the base portion having a hollow tube [44] that includes a first and a second openings at the opposite ends of the tube. It is understood that using the hollow tube for connection between the bulb and electrical connector allows to obtain more reliable and stable connection.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the hollow tube of Ohishi for the lamp of Goto for purpose of obtaining more reliable and stable connection between the bulb and electrical connector.

Referring to Claim 3 Goto discloses (page 2, [0035] the electrical connector having a twist-lock (bayonet) engagement with the light source holder.

Referring to Claim 4 Goto discloses (Fig. 2) means 14] for retaining the base portion to the exterior surface of the vehicle (page 3, [0040]).

Referring to Claim 5 Goto discloses (Fig. 2) the retaining means [15] using at least one fastener for connection the base portion of the device to the vehicle body.

Referring to Claim 6 it is well known in the art that the thermoplastic material is most usable material in a molding process.

Art Unit: 2875

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the molded portions of Goto's device made of thermoplastic in order to obtain the single piece design which is easier and more efficient to manufacture.

Referring to Claim 7 Goto discloses (Fig.2) a gasket compressed in between the flange portion and the peripheral edge portion of the bulb fitting hole, but does not disclose the gasket between the base portion and the vehicle body.

The gaskets are well known in the art and technology and are used to prevent the passage of moisture in the device.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the Goto's device with the gasket between the base portion and the vehicle body, identically as for flange portion and the peripheral edge portion of the bulb fitting hole in order to prevent the passage of moisture in the device.

Referring to Claims 10, 11 Goto discloses the instant claimed invention except for releasable insertion of the bulb and connector. Releasable bulbs and connectors are well known in the art and widely used in the vehicle headlamps. Using of this type of bulbs and connectors allows to simplify exchange of these parts.

It would have been obvious to one having ordinary skill in the art, at the time the invention was made, to provide the releasable bulbs and connectors for the lamp of Goto in order to simplify exchange of these parts.

Art Unit: 2875

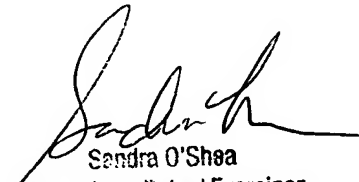
*Conclusion*

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Mark Tsidulko whose telephone number is (703)308-1326. The examiner can normally be reached on 8 - 5.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Sandra O'Shea can be reached on (703) 305-4939. The fax phone numbers for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned are (703) 872-9318 for regular communications and (703)872-9319 for After Final communications.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703) 308-0956.

M.T.  
July 29, 2003

  
Sandra O'Shea  
Supervisory Patent Examiner  
Technology Center 2800